

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 8PM IN THE CLIFFORD WOOD ROOM

Present: Andy Potter (Minister) in the chair and 8 other members

1. **Opening Worship** was led by the Chairman
2. **Welcome and Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Paul Burt, Rachel Forster, Binnie Weston, Jenny Lane, Sarah Potter, Jean Blaxland, Philip Norman
3. **The minutes** of the meetings held on 25th July 2013 were signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - At the last meeting it was noted that some of the pew Bibles were in poor condition. Jean Daniels has been repairing them during the summer and they are all now in a serviceable state.
 - It was reported that Josie Lynn has decided to withdraw from Church life. Andy is unable to explain more about the circumstances for reasons of confidentiality. Nobody has been in contact with Josie for several months. Jean is now living with the rest of the family and is in good health and good spirits. Before leaving, Josie posted her church keys through Andy's door together with a brief note. The deacons recommend that we regard this as indicating her intention to resign from the diaconate. The meeting supported this recommendation and agreed that her name should be removed from the list of trustees.
 - Following Josie's departure, Veronica has taken on the role of catering co-ordinator and Tina is happy to be the designated first-aider. Further volunteers are needed to co-ordinate Sunday refreshments and to manage the kitchen.

5. **Mission and Ministry**

Update

- Andy has spent three days this week on the Ministry Refresher Course. He found it helpful and enjoyed it.
- Andy has been planning for the Autumn and for after Christmas. Andy plans to reach the end of Romans 11 in his sermon series before the start of Advent.
- Harvest has already taken place and it seemed to go well. 36 people attended the Austerity Lunch. A large collection of food offerings were received on Harvest Sunday and will be taken to the Enfield Food Bank next week. A request was made for the list of items most wanted by the Food Bank to be distributed earlier next year. Thanks were expressed to those who decorated the Church for the Harvest celebration.
- Midweek@WHBC meetings have started again after the summer, studying the book of Habbakuk.

Christmas Arrangements

- In the Church Diary that was published at the beginning of the year the Carol service was scheduled for 22nd December and the Toy Service on 15th December. No changes were suggested to these arrangements. Andy intends to ask the Highfield School Choir to sing at the Toy Service again.

Church Anniversary 2014

- The deacons have provisionally suggested the 11th May as the most suitable date. Lewis Pearson was suggested as a possible speaker – the meeting were in favour of this – Andy will ask him if he is available.

Churches Together/Local Initiatives

- Rev Louise Morrissey is now the minister of Winchmore Hill Methodist Church as well as Grange Park after Rev Inez Reid moved to East London.
- The Advent Carol Service will be on 1st December at St Monica's Roman Catholic Church in conjunction with Nightingale Cancer Support.
- There are a number of local initiatives planned by the local churches. The biggest of these is a winter night shelter likely to start late in 2014. This will be based on a similar scheme operating in Haringey, which as well as providing temporary beds for homeless people has been successful in locating permanent accommodation for a large proportion of those it has helped. At some point there will be an appeal for volunteers and for funding.
- At the last Churches Together meeting there was a discussion regarding the Winchmore Hill Community Care Scheme. The Palmers Green scheme recently closed down and a review is needed as to the ongoing direction of the Winchmore Hill Scheme – a lot of the services it provides are also provided by other agencies and it only helps a small number of clients.
- Volunteers are sought to be 'School Pastors' who will patrol outside local schools at home time to promote safety and be a friendly presence at the school gates.

6. Youth

Update

- All the youth and brigade activities are now up and running after the Summer Holiday. There are now fewer young people attending re:create – 10 were at the first meeting. The meetings are being adapted for the smaller numbers by adopting more structured activities and themes. Membership of re:create is currently 80% female.

GB Officers

- Sarah Potter, Rachel Forster and Charlotte Gillard are beginning Officer Training.

7. Finance

Thank Offering Update

- The total now stands at £3470 which is an increase of £1000 on what was reported at the last meeting. This is slightly less than last year (which was an exceptional year) but significantly more than the previous year.

Manse Council Tax

- The Manse has been rebanded from Band G to Band F for Council Tax purposes, backdated to 1993. The Council have so far refunded just over £1400 and Ian is not sure whether that is the final figure.

Budget Process

- The budget is due to be agreed at the November Church Meeting. Ian invited members to submit their comments and requests for the budget at the earliest possible opportunity before then.

8. Membership

Barbara Richardson

- Sarah Potter and Coral Burrige had met with Barbara to discuss her request for membership and Coral presented a report. The meeting wholeheartedly agreed to welcome Barbara into membership.

9. World Mission

- Keith and Barbara Richardson are currently on a prayer trip in Nepal.
- Peter Dallman will be running a Pre-Home Assignment workshop in Tokyo from 8th-18th October. Janet requested prayer for him doing this and for her as she holds the fort at JLC. It is likely that JLC will be accepting even more missionary trainees during 2014 and Peter and Janet are facing significant logistical challenges in fitting them all in.
- Jenny Lane wishes to step down as secretary for the Missionary Committee having served for a number of years. A new volunteer is needed to take up this role.
- Charlotte Khan, who has taken on the role of Tearfund Representative, is hoping to organize a Tearfund service in 2014 and will invite a speaker to talk about the role of the organisation.

10. Secretarial

Correspondence

- **Protestant Dissenting Ministers and Deputies of the Three Denominations:** The annual meeting will take place at 27 Tavistock Square on Thursday 21st November. The theme will be "Equality, Human Rights and Religious Freedom" which is a very relevant topic at the moment. Andy is planning to attend and any other members planning to do so are asked to let him know.
- **October Concert at Fox Lane URC:** Carolyn Kindberg is organising a concert on Saturday 12th October in aid of The London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Posters and leaflets are available in the vestibule.
- **The Nightingale Cancer Support Centre** are organising many fundraising activities during the coming months but the two they have specifically asked to be publicised are a Quiz Night at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club on Friday 11th October and a Floral Demonstration at Warmerdams & Co, Cattlegate Road on Friday 15th November - posters for these are on the noticeboard.
- **Operation Agri - Presents with a Purpose:** The Christmas catalogue for Operation Agri's range of ethical gifts has been received and placed in the vestibule.

Ladies' Social Activities

- Veronica is organising a series of social activities to facilitate the ladies of the Church getting to know each other better. The next one is a trip to the theatre to see *Whistle Down the Wind* on Saturday 26th October. [Note: in the meeting it was erroneously announced that this would be in Palmers Green - in fact it is at the Wylyotts Theatre in Potters Bar.]

Dates

- Deacons: 9th October
- Church Meeting: 24th October

11. Buildings

Dry Rot

- It had been expected that the dry rot work would take place during the summer but for a number of reasons this did not happen. It would be difficult to do the work during school term as there will be some disruption in the side passage which would cause problems for the playgroup so the Normans now plan to do the bulk of it during the October half term.

Lounge Refurbishment

- During the summer the lounge was completely redecorated. There has been a rearrangement of the chairs so that the old orange chairs that were in the lounge have been removed and some of the surplus black chairs from the Elsie Silsby Room and the Creche room have been put in the lounge. Some other small improvements have been made. The Lounge now looks in much better condition, though unfortunately the good state of the walls and furniture further highlights the poor state of the carpet!

Girls Brigade Cupboard

- The Carey Hall cupboard room has been partly rebuilt so that the half of the room furthest from the door is now a large cupboard/office for use by the Girls Brigade. This is proving to be very useful as a large number of items that were previously stored at the homes of the officers and transported every week can now be stored on site.

Carey Hall Hire

- A group running 'weight management' classes have hired out Carey Hall on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in school term. There will still be availability for parties on Saturday afternoons.

12. Pastoral

News was shared about a number of members and friends.

13. Any Other Business

- One member commented that some aspects of the Church website appear to be out of date. The deacons are already considering how the website should be managed in the future.
- The Brigades Enrolment Parade service coincides with the GB Young Leaders training so a number of the older girls will not be present – Tina and Jackie will travel back especially to be at the service.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....